

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action of June 18, 2003. The period for response has been extended by two (2) months to November 18, 2003 by the enclosed Petition for Extension for Time.

Claims 1-20 have been canceled. Claim 21 has been amended to include the limitation that the adhesive is selected from the group consisting of bone glues and bone cements.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-21 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,325,804. The Examiner stated that this was a double patenting rejection.

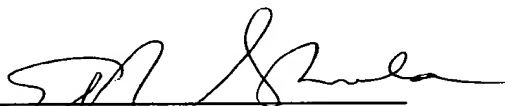
The rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 101 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-20, and claim 21 has been amended to include the limitation that the adhesive is selected from the group consisting of bone cements and bone glues. In addition new dependent claims 22-27 have been added. Support for these new claims is contained in the specification.

Accordingly, since the references of record neither disclose nor suggest the invention as claimed in claim 21 as amended and new claims 22-27, the Examiner is respectfully requested to make the claims of record and to withdraw his rejection and allow the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 14, 2003